

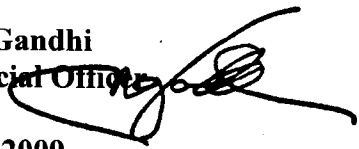
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: January 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Practice of Professional Counseling and
Addiction Counseling Amendment Act of 2009"

REFERENCE: Bill 18-34, As Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Revenues generated from new licensure and certification fees will be used to offset the cost of additional resources required to implement the proposed legislation. In order for the expected additional revenues to be available for expenditure, appropriation authority will be required.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend the Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985¹ to:

- Provide for the regulation of addiction counseling by the Board of Professional Counseling;
- Amend the requirements for the Board of Professional Counseling to require one of the three Board members who are licensed in the District to have at least five years of experience in the field of addiction counseling;
- Establish licensure requirements for graduate professional counselors;

¹ Effective March 25, 1986. D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 *et seq.*

- Provide for certification and licensure requirements for addiction counselors;
- Define the practice of addiction counseling; and
- Amend the definition of the practice of professional counseling.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Subject to the applicable laws relating to the appropriation of District of Columbia funds, new license and certification fees deposited into the Health Occupations Regulation Fund ("Fund") would be used by the Department of Health (DOH) without fiscal year limitation as set forth in D.C. Official Code § 7-733. As provided in D.C. Official Code § 3-1204.09, the Mayor has the authority to establish fees for all services related to the regulation of all health occupations listed in Chapter 12 of Title 3 of the D.C. Official Code. Given this authority, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer concurs with DOH that revenues generated from new licensure and certification fees would be sufficient to offset the cost of additional resources required to implement the proposed legislation. In order for the expected additional revenues to be available for expenditure, appropriation authority will be required.